(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. *

Prices of Steel

2533. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed plan of his Ministry to export steel during the next five years;

(b) whether the private sector would cover the shortfall in targetted production; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAIL's modernisation and expansion in R & D plan would lower the cost of steel increase the output of the existing plants by improving technology and utilising capacity more efficiently; and

(d) what is Government's reaction to a report on the future of steel industry prepared by the US experts and published in Hindustan Times dated 1 st August, 1995 captioned "Indian steel prices to be raised selectively"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Ministry of Steel only acts as the facilitator in export of steel as the current Export-Import Policy allows such exports freely. Ministry of Steel has projected an export of 60 lakh tonnes of steel by 2001-2002, from the level of 13 lakh tonnes during 1994-95.

(b) The demand for steel (including demand for exports) is expected to increase from present level of 19 million tonnes to 37 million tonnes in 2001-2002. this increase in demand will be met through creation of additional capacity in private sector and through modernisation and expansion of existing steel plants in the public sector, since there is no proposal to set up any new steel plant in public sector.

(c) Yes, Sir. SAIL's modernisation plan would lower the cost of saleable steel and also increase the output at the existing plants. SAIL's R&D programmes are aimed at quality improvement, cost reduction, development of value added products and development of new technology.

(d) With the liberalisation of the steel sector (i.e. delicensing, deregulation of prices and distributibn liberalisation of imports/exports and progressive reduction in customs duties on steel imports), the prices of steel have become increasingly market-determined. In such a competitive market environment, prices are determined by interplay of the forces of demand and supply. In order to retain existing market share, every producer would try to absorb increases in input costs by improving productivity rather than passing on the entire burden to. the consumer through raised prices.

Wage revision by fertilizer units

2534. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the fertilizer units in Public Sector Undertakings which have completed the wage revision in respect of the non Executive staff;

(b) the ratio of the income earned by those Public Sector Units to the total amount involved in the. agreement; and

(c) the particulars of the industries where the wage revision has not been done and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Wage revision in respect of unionised category of employees for the period from 1.1.1991 to 31.12.1995 has been completed in Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) and for the period from 1.1.1992 to 31.12.1996 in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT). The additional annual financial outgo on account of the wage revision agreements in relation to the net profit (provisional) of these companies for the year 1994-95 is about 1.95% in the case of RCF, 5.47% in the case of FACT and 49% in the case of MFL.

(c) The other public sector enterprises in the fertilizer sector are in the process of examining the feasibility of introducing wage revision for their non-executive staff in terms of the requirements specified in the extant guidelines of the Government.